

**Advanced Life Support Policy/Procedure #6**

**Recognition of ALS Providers Certified Outside Loudoun County**

**Origin: 02/85**

**Revision: 04/02**

**1. CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Hold current Virginia certification as an ALS Provider (EMT-ST/E/CT/I/P).
- B. Hold current American Heart Association “BLS – Health Care Provider” CPR course completion documentation or the American Red Cross equivalent.
- C. Hold current Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc., AED/Combitube certification.
- D. Be an active member of a Loudoun County EMS Agency that provides ALS pre-hospital care.
- E. Document a minimum of one (1) year field experience at the EMT-B level or higher if challenging at the EMT-ST/E level.
- F. Document a minimum of one (1) year\* field experience at the EMT-ST/E level or higher if challenging at the EMT-CT/I/P level.

\*The one (1) year requirement may be waived if the Provider can document six hundred (600) duty hours and a minimum of thirty (30) ALS calls in a similar manner to their preceptorship program. The documentation will be submitted for consideration to the ALS Committee with the endorsement of the ALS Agency Chief. The ALS Committee will review the documentation and determine the candidate’s eligibility for consideration of early challenge and make recommendation to the Operational Medical Director.

- G. Upon announcement of an upcoming ALS Challenge opportunity by a Loudoun County Training Advisory, prospective candidates must submit a TD-TR form. The TD-TR form must be endorsed with the signature of the candidate’s ALS Agency Chief.
- H. An individual who meets all of the specified criteria will be afforded the opportunity to participate in an interview process to determine eligibility.
- I. Members of the ALS Committee Advanced Life Support Interview Sub-committee will interview challenge candidates and their ALS Agency Chief. After the interview the candidates will be presented to the full Advanced Life Support Committee for final approval. This will occur in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meetings of the ALS Committee.

- J. Upon approval of the ALS Committee, all candidates must attend the “ALS Challenge Prep Class”, conducted under the auspices of the ALS Committee.
- K. Failure to comply with any part of these requirements will result in a candidate’s termination of the challenge process and will require the candidate to reapply at a future date.

2. CANDIDATE EXAMINATION/EVALUATION

- A. Written and practical examinations are developed and administered under the auspices of the Advanced Life Support Committee of the Loudoun County EMS Advisory Council, Inc. with the approval of the Operational Medical Director.
- B. The written examination evaluates both general knowledge consistent with the level being challenged and familiarity with applicable local protocols. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass, with only one opportunity to retest the written examination. Candidates who fail both the test and retest will be eliminated from the current challenge and will be required to attend a Loudoun County ALS refresher training program at the level they are challenging in order to be considered for future challenge attempts.
- C. The practical examination is comprised of skill stations that evaluate the candidate’s ability to perform as an ALS Provider in full accordance with local protocols. Candidate performance is measured against the ALS Committee approved skills checklists. Skills that are evaluated include:
  - 1) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
  - 2) Patient Assessment (Trauma – specific to the level challenged)
  - 3) Basic Life Support (BLS) Skills Assessment
    - a) Traction splint
    - b) Cervical spine/Half spine (KED Device)
    - c) MAST/PASG
  - 4) Semi-Automated External Defibrillation
  - 5) Treatment Scenario(s) (Specific to the level challenged – Mega Code)
  - 6) Airway Management
    - a) Airway maintenance
    - b) Esophageal Tracheal Combitube
    - c) Endotracheal Intubation

- 7) Intravenous (IV) Access and Medication Administration
  - a) Establishing an IV and calculate drip rate
  - b) IV medication administration
  - c) Intramuscular (IM) medication administration
  - d) Subcutaneous (SQ) medication administration
  - e) Nebulizer treatment
- 8) Therapeutic Modalities (Specific to the level challenged)
- 9) Oral Discussion and Review

Additional skills on which the EMT-CT/I/P will be evaluation include:

- 1) Airway Management
  - a) Pediatric Endotracheal Intubation
  - b) Nasotracheal Intubation
  - c) Needle Chest Decompression
  - d) Surgical Cricothyrotomy
- 2) IV Access and Medication Administration
  - a) Calculate Medication Drip Rates
- 3) Intraosseous (IO) Infusion
  - a) Pediatric
  - b) Adult
- 4) Electrical Therapy
  - a) Manual Defibrillation
  - b) Cardioversion
  - c) External Cardiac Pacing
- 5) Dysrhythmias
  - a) Static (80% and Critical Criteria)
  - b) Dynamic (Critical Criteria)

- D. Candidates who are unsuccessful in completing three or fewer practical testing stations will be permitted to retest failed skills once. Candidates failing more than three practical stations or any retested skill will be required to attend a Loudoun County ALS Refresher training program at the level they are challenging in order to be considered for future challenge attempts.
- E. The written and practical “challenge” examinations are offered in conjunction with the ALS certification and recertification courses conducted under the auspices of the ALS Committee. Information regarding specific examination dates is available through the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Training Division and is incorporated into the Training Advisories distributed announcing the aforementioned courses.
- F. Within thirty (30) days of successful completion of both the written and practical examinations, document ten (10) hours of clinical experience in the Emergency Department of Loudoun Hospital Center for familiarization with hospital staff, equipment, and procedural guidelines, AND document completion of two (2) successful adult intubations (ER/OR) under approved supervision. These requirements may be waived for candidates who have completed similar requirements at Loudoun Hospital Center. Failure to complete these requirements within the designated 30-day period will require the candidate to reapply for challenge testing. This noted 30-day period is inclusive of the established preceptorship program.

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